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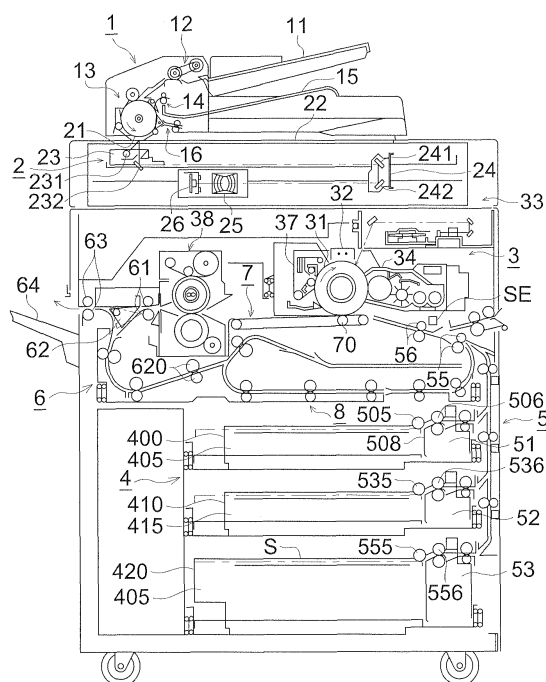
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(54) **Image forming apparatus provided with transfer and separation device**

(57) An image forming apparatus having: a drum-shaped image carrier; a transfer and separation device which comprises: a conveyor belt for conveying a transfer material; a transfer roller for supporting the conveyor belt; and a nip regulating roller that is disposed downstream of the transfer roller in a conveyance direction of the transfer material; and a transfer region changing section adapted to change a downstream end of the transfer region in a conveyance direction of the transfer material by changing a position of the nip regulating roller; wherein the transfer region changing section sets the nip regulating roller, at a first position at which the conveyor belt is supported such that a direction of separation of the conveyor belt from the image carrier at the downstream end of the transfer region coincides with a tangential direction with respect to the image carrier, or at a second position.

FIG. 1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 10 May 2010	Examiner Mandreoli, Lorenzo
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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